

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND GENE AREY

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to say a word about our guest Chaplain who is also my constituent.

The Reverend Gene Arey, who was born and raised in Waynesboro, Virginia, has served as copastor of Waynesboro's New Harvest Worship Center with his wife, Linda. The couple cofounded the church, located at 535 West Main Street, more than 7 years ago. Reverend and Mrs. Arey, who are active in foreign missions, recently returned from Romania, where they also serve as church leaders. Reverend Arey was ordained by Archbishop Silas Owiti of Kenya, Africa, and Dr. Decker Tapscott, pastor of Faith Christian Church in Warrenton, Virginia. Reverend Arey is joined in Washington today by his wife, his son Larry, daughter-in-law Kay, and granddaughter Olivia who live in Greenville, Virginia, also in my district.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the President will be in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Thursday to unveil his vision for a national energy policy. Minnesotans understand the value of a balanced approach that needs to be part of an energy policy which embraces our environmental qualities. We must have clean fuels, renewable energy and improved energy efficiency and invest in alternative energy resources. The Vice President said conservation is a sign of personal virtue, but not a basis for policy. In Minnesota, conservation is common sense. It means saving energy and money by using our resources more efficiently. Improved energy standards for consumer products would eliminate the need for an additional 180 new power plants. Energy efficiency standards have already saved American consumers \$50 billion this past decade. Minnesotans expect conservation to be an important part of any energy policy that balances today's energy needs with the needs of future generations.

H.R. 1 EXPANDS CHOICE FOR PARENTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, children should not be trapped in failing schools where they cannot possibly reach their fullest educational potential. That is why H.R. 1 includes a school choice program that enables parents to remove their children from schools that, as President Bush says, do not teach and will not change.

Before giving parents the option of sending their children to another school, H.R. 1 gives low-performing schools the chance to improve by offering them financial assistance to increase student achievement. If these schools do not make adequate progress after 2 years, parents will be able to send their children to another public school. After 3 years of chronic failure, disadvantaged students will be eligible for private school scholarships.

H.R. 1, it should be noted, aims to bolster failing public schools by giving them special financial help. But more funding cannot be the final remedy. There must be a safety valve that allows children to escape continually low-performing schools.

It goes without saying that we are all committed to improving the quality of our Nation's schools; but first and foremost, students themselves should be our most pressing concern. And it is our responsibility to empower parents to make the right decision for their children's future.

CALIFORNIA'S ELECTRICITY CRISIS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, we now know what GOP means. It means gas, oil and petroleum. What is the administration's answer to the electricity crisis confronting the West and soon the rest of the Nation? Drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, cut research into renewable energy research, cut conservation programs.

Mr. Speaker, that is not the answer for the western electricity crisis. We must conserve. We must move more into renewable sources. We must do more research. But most of all, we have to bring down the criminal prices that are being charged for wholesale electricity in California and the rest of the West. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, this Congress, this administration, must act now. It is the prices that are killing the California and western economy. It is the prices that are going to kill the rest of this Nation's economy. California is being bled dry by electricity wholesalers. We are being charged \$2.5 billion a month for our electricity. This cannot stand. It is time for Congress, it is time for this administration to act. Let us get away from a gas, oil and petroleum policy for this administration.

INCREASED SPENDING JEOPARDIZES FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the so-called transition cost for Social Security, if we do nothing, if we make no changes, is \$120 trillion over

the next 75 years. If we start now by developing the kind of bridge that will bridge the gap between expected revenues and expenditures that is necessary to increase the returns over what Social Security will otherwise be able to pay, we can do it. The average return that is paid in in Social Security taxes is now estimated by the Social Security actuaries to be 1.7 percent return on that so-called investment, or those taxes. In a perfect congressional world, we would not have a tax cut, we would stop the dramatic increase in spending of this Congress that jeopardizes not only the economy but leaves our kids with a huge debt and jeopardizes the future of Social Security and Medicare. Let us hold the line on increased spending.

TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE FBI

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. What is the big surprise, Mr. Speaker, in the McVeigh case? The FBI has been hiding evidence for years. Think about it.

If you really believe that two Libyan mules blew up Pan Am 103, you are on Prozac.

If you really believe that the best FBI sharpshooter just happened to accidentally shoot Mrs. Weaver right between the eyes, you still believe in Mother Goose.

Congress, if you believe the Waco jury heard the whole truth from the FBI, you still believe in the Tooth Fairy.

And, Congress, if you still believe the propaganda about the assassination of JFK, by God, you still believe that Mae West is a virgin.

Beam me up. It is time for an investigation into FBI hiding and concealing exculpatory evidence on criminal defendants.

I yield back the FBI corruption from Boston, Massachusetts to Youngstown, Ohio.

MILITARY WEAR

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I understand that some Members of Congress are working on legislation which will tell the United States Army what kind of headgear to wear. I believe this action is micromanagement at its worst and makes Congress the fashion police.

For those of us who have strong ties to the military community, this entire episode has been a whirlwind of emotions. Like most of my constituents, I too felt the issuance of a black beret, the modern-day symbol of excellence in the United States Armed Forces, to all soldiers was ill-advised. As I have related to senior Army officials and my constituents, this action is analogous to issuing a letter jacket to all high